

DAVID LOEBSACK

2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

September 29, 2014

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
US Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
US Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Leader Pelosi:

Along with many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I have received numerous briefings on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and recognize the danger that this terrorist organization poses to our interests and partners in the Middle East. Unfortunately, instead of remaining in Washington to debate the merits of the use of military force against ISIL and form a coherent strategy to ultimately rid this threat, Congress was forced to adjourn without taking meaningful action.

Mr. President, I understand that you believe you have the authority to act militarily in Iraq and Syria; however, the strength of U.S. military efforts and our leadership around the world is greater when coupled with the expressed support of Congress. It is for that reason that I urge House and Senate leadership to call Congress back into legislative session to debate a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq and Syria.

As Members of Congress, we must fulfil our solemn oath to our constituents and come together immediately to address this serious and pressing issue. The American people, especially our women and men in uniform, deserve to hear the merits of military engagement fully debated on the floors of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I stand ready to work with you to help protect the American homeland and our interests abroad. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebsack
Iowa's Second District